

Page Denied

The New York Times
Thursday,
15 September 1983

PRESIDENT ACCUSES SOVIET ON '62 PACT

He Asserts Offensive Weapons Still Flow to West Despite Ending of Cuba Crisis

By FRANCIS X. CLINES

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 14— President Reagan contended today that the Soviet Union and Cuba had repeatedly violated a 1962 agreement that ended the Cuban missile crisis by continuing to ship "offensive weapons" into the American hemisphere.

"As far as I'm concerned, that agreement has been abrogated many times by the Soviet Union and Cuba in the bringing in of what can only be considered offensive weapons, not defensive, there," the President said to a group of reporters.

His spokesman, Larry Speakes, later said the President was referring to violations of the "spirit of the agreement," an agreement that had essentially focused on nuclear weapons. Mr. Speakes did not cite specific violations, but said that the United States has no plans to abrogate its half of the agreement, which was not to invade Cuba.

Mr. Reagan outlined his interpretation of the agreement in response to a question about Soviet-Cuban activity in the hemisphere. The 1962 settlement was never agreed to in writing by President Kennedy and Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev or their representatives. The absence of a document and the ambiguity of the meaning of "offensive" has led to continuing disputes in the United States Government and with the Soviet Union. Nevertheless, it has been generally agreed that the terms applied only to nuclear weapons or weapons with a nuclear capacity.

He Sees Soviet Isolation

In other remarks, the President said the Soviet Union had become "increasingly isolated" in the world through such incidents as the downing of the Korean jetliner.

"If any good has come out of this tragedy," he said, "it is that the Western democracies better appreciate that peace will take more than gestures of good will and sincerity."

"We can't permit such a regime to militarily dominate this planet," Mr. Reagan said. "This incident should reaffirm our commitment and that of our allies to rebuild our defensive strength."

"That gruesome episode unmasked the Soviet regime for what it is: A dictatorship with none of the respect for human values and individual rights that we in the Western democracies hold so dear."

Mr. Reagan met today with the American delegation to the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization. The organization has scheduled an emergency meeting Thursday in Montreal to consider the Korean jetliner downing.

Inquiry Is Expected

J. Lynn Helms, the Federal Aviation Administrator, predicted that the organization would vote for an international inquiry. He contended the Russians "would not dare" ignore the inquiry since this would be taken by the world as a sign that they were not interested in aviation safety.

In discussing Cuba, the President said that the Castro Government had used the outflow of refugees to Florida four years ago to "infiltrate subversives into our country."

Asked to elaborate, Mr. Reagan's spokesman, Mr. Speakes, said that there had been intelligence reports on this but he declined to discuss them.

Mr. Reagan's reference to "abrogating" the missile crisis agreement, Mr. Speakes said, was not intended to imply that any nuclear weapons had been brought into the hemisphere. "He meant it was a violation of the spirit of the agreement in the light of all the Soviet military equipment that's been shipped in to Cuba over the years," Mr. Speakes said.

Interpretations Contradict

The 1962 agreement has been subject to contradictory interpretations, but its initial focus was the nuclear missiles the Soviet Government sent to Cuba and later withdrew after a tense confrontation with the Kennedy Administration.

"It's a difficult issue to be certain about because the agreement itself was left somewhat ambiguous and it was never a formal document," Graham T. Allison, dean of Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, said. He described the United States' main concern as the removal of the nuclear missiles and added that the agreement did not cover such issues as the stationing of Soviet troops in Cuba or the spread of Soviet arms to third parties.

In other comments, Mr. Reagan said he hoped for a "return to sanity" and an easing of some of the restrictions on conflict of interest that Government officials have had to submit to in the aftermath of the Watergate scandal. Describing the process as "humiliating" in the view of some professionals sought by the Administration, Mr. Reagan said that one person he wanted for the Cabinet had rejected the job because of the restrictions, "and all the reporting and revelations."

Mr. Reagan offered the account in explaining why there was no Hispanic Cabinet member. "This individual turned away and said, 'No, I don't want any part of it,'" Mr. Reagan said, without identifying the person.

The President appeared genuinely surprised by one question, whether the Administration had barred the disguising of intelligence agents in foreign countries as religious missionaries.

"For heaven's sake," said Mr. Reagan. "Have you got an answer on that? I don't." He promised to find out.